REMARKS

In response to the Restriction Requirement dated April 28, 2003 for which the period of response extends to May 28, 2003, Applicant hereby provisionally elects Group I with traverse. A new claim 33 has been added that has language similar to the subject matter of Group I as specified by the Examiner and therefore it is requested that new claim 33 be examined as part of Group I. It should be noted that by provisionally electing Group I, the Examiner's request for election of a single species has been met in that claim 1 states,

> "the single, double, and triple count rates is a normal distribution,
> the self-induced fission rate is a flat distribution,
> the detector efficiency is a triangular distribution, and
> the α,n reaction rate is a triangular distribution".

Group I and Group II are each directed at a method of monitoring a sample containing a neutron source having a neutron source mass using neutron detectors to provide single, double and triple neutron count rates. It is these count rates that are equated to a mathematical function related to a spontaneous fission rate(F_s), a self-induced fission rate (M), a (α,n) reaction rate (α) and a detection efficiency (ε) used to derive a spontaneous fission rate related to the neutron source mass. Due to the similar subject matter of claims Group I and Group II, the Applicant requests that the Examiner also examine the Group II claims since it would not pose an undue burden on the Examiner to do so.

Respectfully submitted,
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